

## **News Release**

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## Carlyle Lake Christmas Tree Recycling Project

Carlyle Lake, Carlyle Illinois, December 13, 2004 - The Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake will be collecting used Christmas trees again this year for the annual Christmas tree recycling project. The Corps of Engineers, along with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, uses these trees to provide an effective and economical means of providing fish habitat at Carlyle Lake.

Each year, volunteers from various organizations and clubs, as well as other conservation minded citizens donate their time to help submerge these trees in the lake as fish shelters. These shelters provide fish with breeding areas, resting places, and protection. They give young fish much needed living space where they can feed on plankton and avoid being preyed upon by larger fish. The protection provided by the trees allows for a large number of fish to grow to maturity and provide more fish for anglers.

Christmas trees can be donated from December 26, 2005 through January 16, 2006 at the following locations: Plant Land (located on Old Route 50 east of Breese, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-3:30pm); the Little Prairie Nature Trail parking lot, located in the West Spillway at Carlyle Lake; the Keyesport Boat Ramp parking lot; and the Centralia Wal-Mart parking lot on the east side next to the Garden Center.

If you are interested in volunteering to help place Christmas trees in the lake, contact the Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia Navigation Project Office at (618) 594-2484 or the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division at (618) 594-3627.